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OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Quanesha Boykins, Chair
Jeffrey Trant, Secretary
Shaynah Barnes Munro
Melanie Robinson Findlay (left meeting at 11:04 a.m.)
Carrie Kelley

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Matthew Runge, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of July 27, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review Interview – Prior Discipline

- **Laura Lambert, Applicant for LICSW:** Ms. Lambert appeared to discuss her prior discipline as an LSWA in 2016. She agreed to one year of probation after her supervisor at the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in 2013 noted in a record that Ms. Lambert visited a family home and found it clean, adequately furnished, and without safety hazards when in fact she had not visited the home. A child from that home later went missing and was found dead. Ms. Lambert described that she had no issues during her last visit with the family, but later was not able to visit after many attempts because the mother would not let her visit. At the time, Ms. Lambert's caseload, like many others



working at DCF, was very high, and she and her supervisor talked to their manager about that particular family.

Ms. Lambert explained that she is now working at a skilled nursing facility and has supervision and compliance guidance through a contracted consulting group. She has learned that documentation, including an awareness of what others are documenting, is very important, she must be an advocate for her needs, and she must be mindful to make good decisions. The Board encouraged Ms. Lambert to continue to seek supervision and “share the responsibility.”

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to allow Ms. Lambert to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination CE Policy:** The Board discussed the draft policy and requested changes. Staff will create a new draft for the Board’s consideration in September.
- **CORI Policy:** The Board considered the draft policy. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- **8.11.21 Letter from D. Hymans of ASWB re: Exam-Use Policy Exception Request:** Read and reviewed.

Application Reviews – Negative Reference

- **Abiola Sheriff, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board considered Ms. Sheriff’s negative reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Ms. Robinson Findlay, to allow Ms. Sheriff to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Jonathan Francis, Applicant for LSW:** The Board considered Mr. Francis’s negative reference. The Board directed staff to invite the supervisor who provided the reference to a meeting for an interview.
- **Ruth Ferrante, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board considered Ms. Ferrante’s negative reference. The Board directed staff to invite the supervisor who provided the reference to a meeting for an interview.

Application Reviews – Prior Discipline

- **Lisa Umanita, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board considered Ms. Umanita’s prior discipline. The Board directed staff to invite Ms. Umanita to a meeting for an interview.
- **Thomas Brady, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board considered Mr. Brady’s prior discipline. The Board directed staff to invite Mr. Brady to a meeting for an interview.

Monitoring Reports

- **Vijay Dalal, 2018-001211-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension:** The Board considered Mr. Dalal’s petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to accept the petition. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Linda Lewis, 2017-000414-IT-ENF, Approval of CEs:** The Board considered Ms. Lewis’s CEs and took no action.
- **Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board considered Ms. Fowle’s report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B, to review sensitive medical information)

At 10:35 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to review the good moral character of an applicant, and under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B, to review sensitive medical information as part of an interview regarding a fitness to practice evaluation report and a CE extension request; (2) then enter into a closed quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 18 to review a final decision and order; (3) then enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to review cases; and then, after the conclusion of the investigative conference, (4) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 10:35 a.m.

Quasi-Judicial Session (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 18)

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 11:33 a.m.

During the quasi-judicial session, the Board took the following action:

Final Decision and Order

2020-001730-IT-ENF (KF): Determined sanction for final decision and order

Investigative Conference (Closed under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C)

At 11:35 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Trant, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C to review cases. The motion passed unanimously.

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Cases

2021-000419-IT-ENF (LL):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-001725-IT-ENF (RC):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000547-IT-ENF (KC):	Dismiss with advisory letter

Adjournment

At 11:59 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Trant, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on September 28, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of August 24, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes July 27, 2021
- LICSW Application of Laura Lambert and Consent Agreement
- Draft Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination CE Policy
- Draft CORI Policy
- 8.11.21 Letter from D. Hymans of ASWB re: Exam-Use Policy Exception Request
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Abiola Sheriff
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LSW Application of Jonathan Francis
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Ruth Ferrante

- Documents regarding Prior Discipline from LICSW Application of Lisa Umanita
- Documents regarding Prior Discipline from LICSW Application of Thomas Brady
- Vijay Dalal, 2018-001211-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension
- Linda Lewis, 2017-000414-IT-ENF, Submission of CEs
- Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report